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A BIG SNOW.

St. Patrick's day was always a red letter occasion in the early times. For the 17th of March, 1843, the



AMZI WILSON
The First Editor.

A. O. H., had arranged a big parade. The day and night previous snow fell to the depth of nearly four feet. It was determined to have the parade despite all obstacles. The society and their friends were out early and snow shoveling was entered upon in earnest. Before the morning was far advanced the sturdy workers had cleared a path in the centre of the roadway over which they wished to pass. Streets were not numerous then and the line of march led them to the top of No. 1 hill. They finished their parade in triumph, although at places only the heads of some of the marchers were visible from the sidewalk.

EARLY SOCIETIES.

The Carbondale Literary Society had for its President, Rev. I. A. Stone; Vice President, Robert Wallace; Secretary, James Ruthven; Treasurer, Eugene Stewart; Standing Committee, Lewis Jones, Geo. Perkins and Lewis Pughe. The first lodge of any kind organized in Carbondale was Cambrian Lodge No. 58, I. O. O. F., instituted April 20, 1838. Lackawanna Encampment No. 16 was the first in this section being instituted February 24, 1845. The members were obliged to go to Reading and become members of an encampment there that they might apply for a charter. Carbondale Lodge No. 249, F and A. M. was instituted September 11, 1850. The Father Matthew Total Abstinence and Benevolent association was organized September 11, 1868.

AN EXCITING TIME.

Carbondale was always known as a city of homes, and its people have had a proud reputation abroad. Its good name has seldom been sullied by any outbreaks, and an occasion in the early days, recounted by a former resident, is so unusual as to be worth quoting. He says: "Carbondale, when I lived here, con-

sisted of what might be called three separate villages of different nationalities. I remember a street fight in which a man was killed by Stephen Gardner, a nomadic hunter. While walking into the village Gardner was attacked by a crowd of men who cherished an old feud. A running fight ensued, and Gardner used a spring-hack dirk knife. He was tried at Wilkes-Barre and acquitted on the ground of self defense. Some citizens afterward by subscription gave Gardner a white handled spring-hack knife and a pistol.

The result of this disturbance was that many citizens became alarmed for the safety of their property, and those who could carry arms did so to protect themselves. Teams were sent one night to Dundaff to bring a load of muskets, and fears were expressed that the rioters would capture them on the way, but happily they were groundless, and the usually quiet people of Carbondale soon resumed their ordinary business.

THE DEATH RECORD.

In 1831 the D. & H. deeded a tract of land on the hill above its shops to J. W. Burnham, D. B. Blanchard, Lathrop Burgess, Bonaparte Baker, John Bowen and R. E. Marvinne as trustees for a Protestant cemetery. At a meeting of the association on June 18, 1852, it was reported that 752 burials had been made, classified as follows: Americans, 402; Welsh, 232; Scotch, 43; English, 27; German, 19; Irish, 13; French, 2; not stated, 14. The report concludes that "this probably represented the actual number of deaths in the place, exclusive of the Catholic population for the last twenty years."

A DEED OF DARING.

Alexander Bryden was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, March 6th, 1799. In 1842 he emigrated to America and came direct to Carbondale. In 1843 he was appointed mine foreman here and continued in that position until 1852. He died August 20th, 1854. His feat of daring in the great mine cave on January 12, 1846 will always keep his name prominent in the history of Carbondale. About forty acres of the roof gave way. The men had just gone to work and fourteen of them were crushed to death. They were Henry Moore, Peter Crawley, Patrick Leonard, Ebenezer Williams, Patrick Clark, Patrick Mitchell, Michael Toolan, John Farrell, Anthony Walsh, Mark Brennan, William Clines, James McGrath, Jno. Brennan, Henry Devaney, Patrick Walker. One of the mine superintendents John Hosie was entombed with the others. Mr. Bryden put forth every effort to rescue any who might be living. After being shut in forty-eight hours, wandering in the dark, Mr. Hosie came to within hearing distance of the rescuers. Mr. Bryden found a small opening made by the tops of two large slabs of coal having struck together with their bases on the bottom of the mine. Into this crevice Bryden crawled and found the opening continued in